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per thousand to 122·5 and of husked coconuts from 197·5 to 103·5. When there has been such a large and appreciable fall in the price of coconuts, may I know what steps the Government are taking to avert this fall in price?"

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—"While thanking the hon. Member for the information given, I may assure the Member that I will look into the matter."

Admission to the Erskine Hospital, Madurai.

*81 Q.—SRI N. K. PALANISAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state— 11-50 a.m.

(a) the average number of persons admitted as in-patients in the Erskine Hospital, Madurai; and

(b) how many beds are provided in the hospital?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—"(a) 950.

"(b) 665."

SRI N. K. PALANISAMI :—"மதுரை சர்க்கார் ஆஸ்பத்திரியில் போதுமான படுக்கை வசதிகள் இல்லாததால் வியாதியஸ்தர்களை தரையில் படுக்கவைத்திருப்பது சர்க்காருக்குத் தெரியுமா? அப்படியானால் அந்தக் குறைபாட்டை நீக்க சர்க்கார் என்ன நடவடிக்கை எடுக்கப் போகிறார்கள்."

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—"There was a proposal to increase the bed strength of this hospital as a Part II Scheme for 1953–54. The proposal has been deferred and it may be taken up, if necessary, next year."

Grant of remission of palmyra tax in the Tirunelveli district.

*82 Q.—SRI N. K. PALANISAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state whether the Government have given remission of palmyra taxes in the Tirunelveli district for this year?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—"No remission of the palmyrah tax was granted in the Tirunelveli district for fasli 1362. The Government have since issued orders to the effect that with effect from fasli 1363, the tax on palmyra trees standing on dry lands in the district should be abolished and that the dry assessments recoverable from the holders of lands hitherto paying tree tax in addition to land tax should be fixed at the highest dry rate, or the aggregate of the land tax plus the tree tax hitherto paid, whichever is less."

SRI N. K. PALANISAMI :—"திருநெல்வேலி ஜில்லாவில் மட்டும், நிலத்திற்கும் அதில் இருக்கக் கூடிய பனை மரத்திற்கும் தனித்தனியாக இரண்டு விதமான வரி போடுவதற்குக் காரணம் என்ன? தற்போது பனை மரத்திற்கு போடப்பட்டு வந்த வரியை ரத்து செய்துவிட்டு, நிலத்தின் வரியை ஏன் அதிகப்படுத்தவேண்டுமென்று கனம் மந்திரியை நான் கேட்கிறேன்?"

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THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—"As the tax is now abolished, we need not go into the origin of the levy. The hon. Member is wrong in thinking that by this method we are increasing the tax. Suppose the land tax and the palmyrah tax was Rs. 20, now it is reduced to Rs. 2–13–0. Suppose the land tax and the palmyra tax was Rs. 1–4–0, it will not be increased to Rs. 2–13–0. So it is an advantage in every respect."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—"மரத்திற்கு வரி, நிலத்திற்கு வரி என்று இரட்டை வரியிருந்ததிலிருந்து, மரத்து வரியை ரத்து செய்துவிட்டு நில வரியை முன்பு இருந்தது போலவே வைத்திருக்கிறார்களா? அல்லது மரத்து வரியை அதிகப்படுத்தியிருக்கிறார்களா என்று கேட்கிறேன்?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—"I am sorry that in spite of the very clear exposition, the position has not been understood. The existing tax in those cases is made up of two items. Now the tree tax is abolished and the land revenue should be fixed. Instead of having an elaborate resettlement for the classification of the land, we took the lower of the two."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—"Is the Hon. Minister for Land Revenue aware that such discrepancy exists also in places other than Tirunelveli? For instance, in the Rameswaram Island, tax is levied on the palmyra trees as well as on the land. Will the Government look into the matter and remove the discrepancy?"

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—"It is not on all fours with this case. Here it is a palmyrah tax but in Rameswaram it is a tax on other trees also. It is being looked into."

SRI P. SELVARAJ :—"பனை மரத்தின் மீது வரி போடுவதை ரத்து செய்யும் கொள்கை ஜமீன்தாரி பிரதேசங்களுக்கும் விஸ்தரிக்கப்படுமா என்று கனம் மந்திரி அவர்களைக் கேட்கிறேன்?"

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—"There are two kinds of zamindari areas—those which have been taken over by the Government and those which have not yet been taken over. The hon. Member will give me some time to look into the matter."

Starting of Power and Cottage industries.

* 83 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have started any power and cottage industries in the State during the year 1952–53 to solve unemployment; and

(*b*) if so, what are the industries started and the number of persons provided with work?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—"(*a*) No Sir.

"(*b*) Does not arise."